UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

L-6

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16. 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary.

We understand you have heard from some Members of Congress writing in opposition to the proposed TransCanada Keystone Gulf Coast Expansion Project (Keystone XL) pipeline. As you know. this 1.700 mile endeavor (1,375 miles in the United States) is of interest to many American and Canadian stakeholders and raises a number of issues pertaining to our nation's energy security.

It is our view that the issues raised by some of our colleagues do not preclude the issuance of a Presidential Permit issued by the Department of State for the project to proceed. Rather. the Department of State should move forward in the process to grant the permit on the basis that the project clearly would serve the national interest. Such is the criteria for approval pursuant to Executive Orders 11423 and 13337.

While we may look forward to a future of more diversified energy sources we nonetheless rely on fossil fuels for the foreseeable future, much of which is imported from the Middle East. Today. Canada is the largest supplier of energy to the United States, and our friendly partnership with Canada can help the United States meet its energy demands with less dependence on countries at odds with our principles. The potential oil extracted from Canadian oil sands in particular is estimated to be second to that of reserves held by Saudi Arabia. At a nominal 900,000 barrels per day the Keystone XL pipeline is surely of national interest as we can import from our northern neighbor.

With worldwide increases in energy demand expected to continue. it would be a setback to the American people to arbitrarily wall-off this valuable source of energy from Canada. Likewise, we must not take steps that would rule out the responsible development of our own oil sands, such as those in California and Utah, should they be commercially viable in the long term.

The Department of State has completed its due diligence in evaluating the environmental impact of the pipeline. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

clearly explains that no less than ten federal agencies collaborated with the Department of State in this process, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior. Additionally, various state and local agencies are responsible for issuing permits. The DEIS concludes that, "the proposed Keystone XL Project would result in limited adverse environmental impacts during both construction and operation." subject to conditions agreed to in the document.

Madam Secretary, we ask that you give strong consideration to our views and welcome an expeditious Presidential Permit for Keystone XL.

Sincerely.

UNCLASSIFIED

(signatures)

(TC-19)

Ed Whitfield

Dan Burton

Pete Sessions

Jerry Moran

John Culberson

Mike Coffman

Randy Neugebauer

Robert B. Aderholt

Steve King

Jason Chaffetz

Cynthia M. Lummis

Bill Cassidy

UNCLASSIFIED

<u>Member Signatures on July 16, 2010 letter to Secretary Clinton regarding Keystone XL pipeline</u>

<u>Page 1 of signatures</u>

Hon. Doug Lamborn	Hon. Doc Hastings
Hon. Fred Upton	Hon. Paul Broun
Hon. Tom McClntock	Hon. John Shadegg
Hon. Ted Poe	Hon. Kevin Brady
Hon. Dan Boren	Hon. Kenny Marchant
Hon. Sue Myrick	Hon. Rob Bishop
Hon. Dean Heller	Hon. Michael McCaul
Hon. Bill Posey	Hon. Michele Bachmann
Hon. Wally Herger	Hon. Duncan Hunter

<u>Page 2 of signatures</u>

Hon. John Shimkus	Hon. Dan Burton
Hon. Ed Whitfield	Hon. Pete Sessions
Hon. Donald Manzullo	Hon. Jerry Moran
Hon. John Duncan, Jr.	Hon. Michael Conaway
Hon. John Culberson	Hon. Mike Coffman
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	Hon. Robert Aderholt
Hon. Steve King	Hon. Jason Chaffetz
Hon. Cynthia Lummis	Hon. Bill Cassidy
Hon. Jeb Hensarling	

UNCLASSIFIED